

DETROIT

MONUMENT

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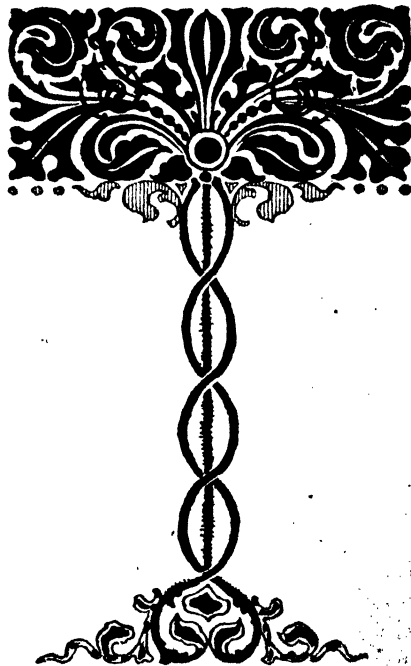
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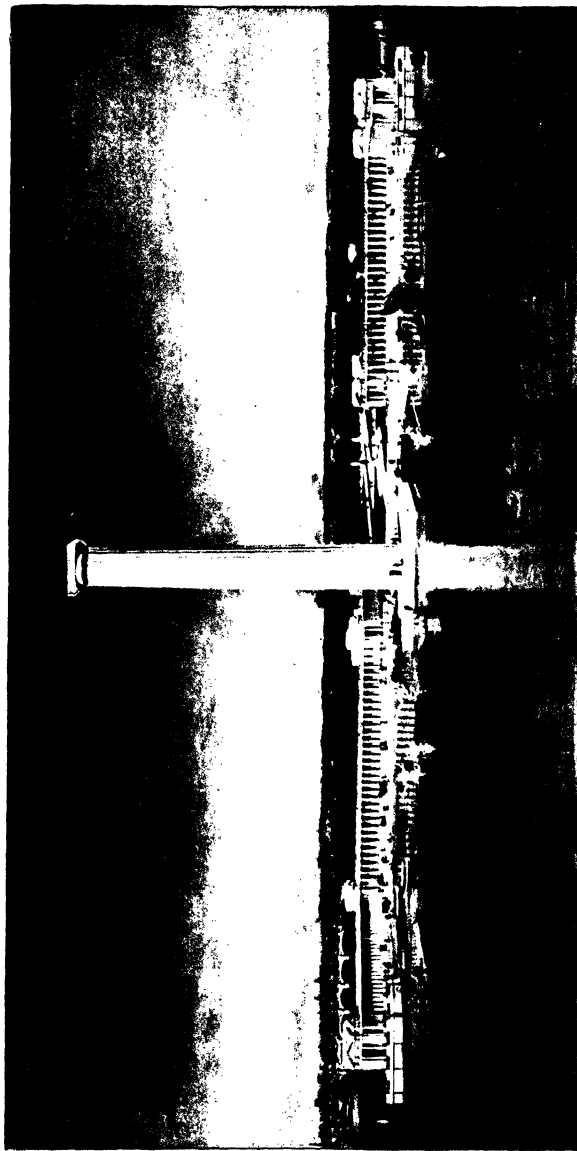
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MONUMENT
TO BE ERECTED
BY THE PEOPLE TO
COMMEMORATE THE
200TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUN-
DING OF DETROIT





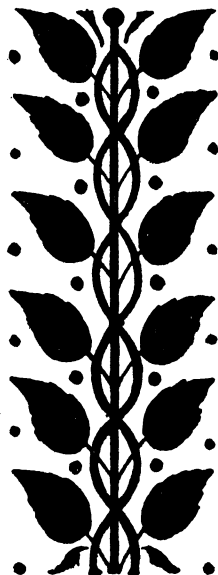
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TO BE ERECTED BY
THE PEOPLE TO x
x COMMEMORATE
THE 200TH ANNI-
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THE location is upon a site reclaimed from the river at the lower end of Belle Isle Park. The design includes a Doric column twenty-four feet in diameter at its base, rising from the waters of the Detroit River two hundred and twenty feet, the highest in the world, surrounded by groups of sculpture in the water, situate within the court of a marble colonnade nine hundred feet long, with a wing at each end three hundred feet long. The colonnade will furnish a place for statues of Cadillac and others noted in the eventful history of Detroit. Above the colonnade on the land side opportunity will be afforded to construct an artificial lake fed by decorative fountains with an ornamental aquarium and horticultural building on either side. The top of the column, which will be easily accessible to visitors, will overlook the river, Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie and the surrounding country for many miles, and a torch flashing fire at intervals will mark it unmistakably at night.

The cost will be one million dollars, and the work will forever stand as the mark and insignia of the city the world over, the gateway and beacon to the commerce of the Northwest, and rank with the famous monuments of all time.

"The earliest light of the morning will gild it and parting day will linger and play on its summit."

DETROIT, APRIL, 1900.

TO THE PEOPLE OF DETROIT, OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, AND
OF THE GREAT NORTHWEST:

Cadillac, a soldier of France, founded a settlement here on the banks of the beautiful river and called it Detroit on the 24th day of July, 1701. Authentic narrative makes it clear that the intention was to establish a permanent city. On the founding day the missionaries who were with him raised a rude altar and sang the vespers, and the building of a church and a fort and the cultivation of the fertile land in the vicinity were determined upon.

Before that time adventurous explorers seeking the fountain of youth, or gold, or a passage way to the far East, or an avenue for commerce, or, above all, to plant the Cross, had described the attractions of the place. One zealous forerunner of civilization, captivated with the surrounding charms, when he stepped out from his bark canoe remarked with the eloquence of religious devotion that its own beauty consecrated the spot for a temple to God; and Cadillac, the founder, with an eye to its commercial importance, distinguished it as the open door on this continent through which the King might go in and out to trade with his allies.

The story of the ancient city is rich in incident and its

varied career has been stranger than fiction. The Indian, both the home loving Algonquin and the fierce, roving Iroquois, finding traces of foot prints earlier than their own, and the French, English and American make up the panorama. The Spaniard also appeared upon the scene and longed for ownership.

Now the People with just pride may celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of a populous and substantial city. Throughout the long period of years relatively the same steady growth has obtained: conservative as compared with some of our phenomenal cities, but crowned always and distinguished as the City of Homes, a city which owns itself. Detroit is remarkable for its cosmopolitan character. The descendants of the early French and English have intermingled with the German, Irish, Scotch, Swede and Norwegian colonist, and especially noticeable is the large Polish settlement, which adds so much to the industry of the city.

Our superb river, unequaled in the world in its various features, for commerce, water supply, drainage, recreation and decoration of the landscape, is, as it always has been, a pivotal attraction, and it has been selected, as a matter of course, for the site of the monument. Our people do not stop to think how great and constant a necessity, boon and blessing, the river is to us. Like other rivers, it marks the character of the people who live upon its shore. In its even flow, without flood or tempest, it personifies our attributes and yields cleanliness and sanitation.

A number of the most eminent American artists have made a noble design which utilizes our crowning feature and embodies the sentiments of our people. Their names—STANFORD WHITE, Architect; AUGUSTUS ST. GAUDENS, and FREDERICK MACMONNIES, Sculptors; DWIGHT W. TRYON, and THOMAS W. DEWING, Painters—give assurance that the genius of art has been in touch with the work.

Our people are wise enough to know that other cities in their adornment by public buildings and works of art have builded better than they knew. The art with which they have adorned themselves has become the common heritage of the citizens and has been of great commercial value, in some instances saving them from ruin. How many a city is distinguished by some great work of art which it contains? The lesson of experience has unquestionably shown that these monuments, aside from exerting other beneficial influences, have been of constant aid to the local trade and value of property amid the fluctuations of commerce. Such works are for the common benefit and possession of the entire community. The poorest in his enjoyment and ownership shares equally with the richest.

It is for the people to carry out the splendid design upon the broad and liberal plans in which it has been conceived. There ought to be no change. The occasion demands everything—column, colonnade, aquarium and horticultural building. We have the accumulation of two hundred years to draw upon. The present prosperity of the times is propitious. A memorial

of and for the people is to be builded, and every person in the community—man, woman and child—will enjoy it.

Although the labor will be employed and the money spent here, the monument will have more than a civic significance. Detroit is as completely the metropolis of Michigan as Athens was the eye of Greece. People throughout the State generally will, therefore, be welcome to a participation in the uplifting of a column which will make the State famous. Conspicuous to the passing fleets, it will symbolize the actual gateway to the Northwest, and the multitudes interested in the vast commerce of the great lakes, wherever they may reside, will undoubtedly be glad to aid. Many people who were born or have lived in Detroit and now reside elsewhere, cherishing the memory of their former home, will surely desire to be counted among the builders.

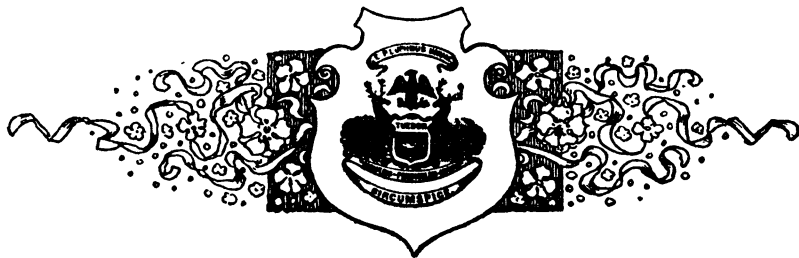
It must be the universal outpouring of the people. Our people in their quiet way have been liberal. The number of churches and charitable institutions in our city show this.

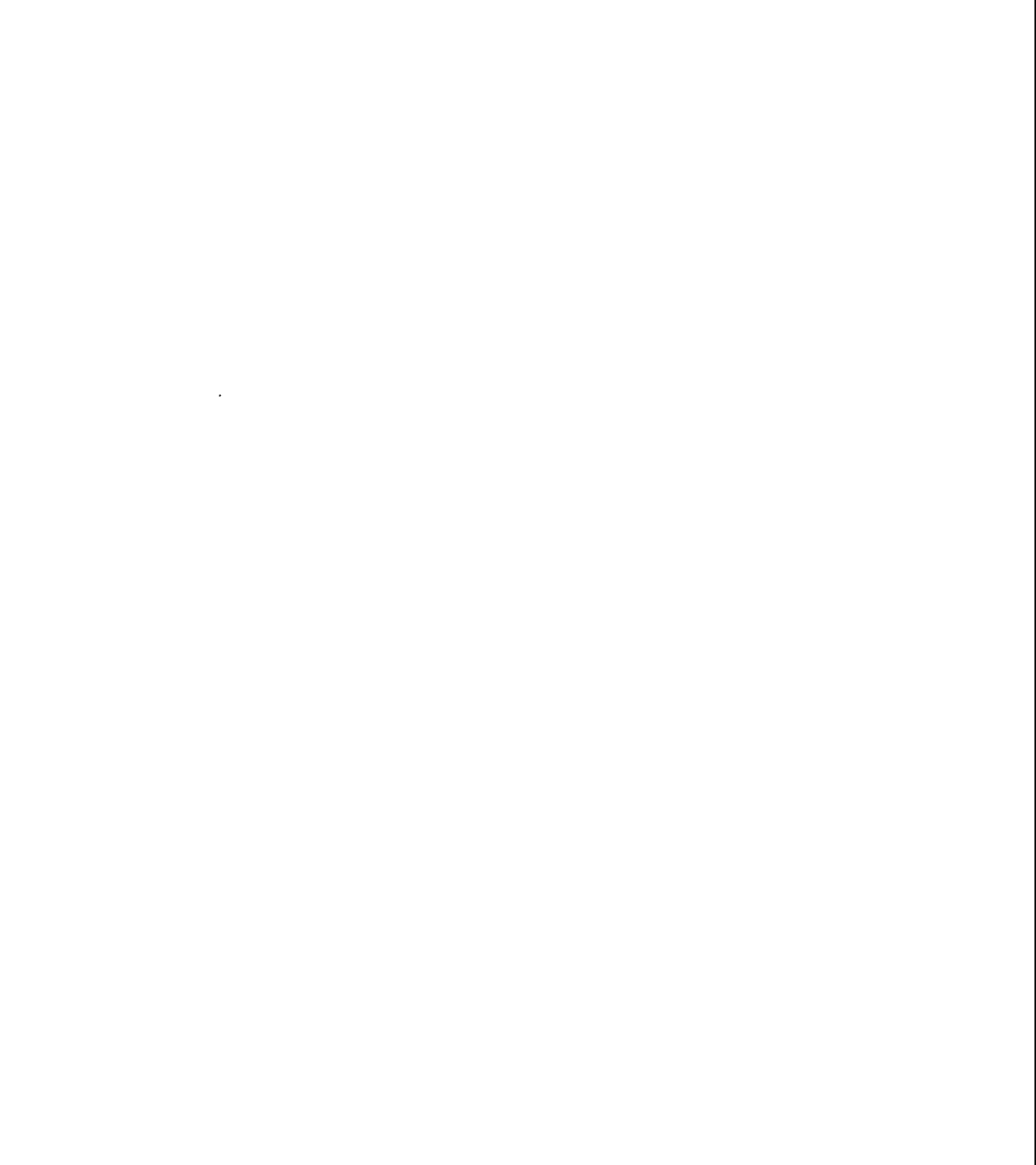
Based upon the population of the city it will take less than five dollars apiece from every one. Some, however willing they may be, cannot give their proportionate share. Others who have been more favored in the race of life must make up in the common undertaking. Some of our citizens will, without other distinction than as contributors to the common weal, represent several thousand of their fellow citizens. The women, with their persuasive and controlling influence, will count as much, if not more, than the men in this enterprise. A wide spread

interest throughout the community will encourage our wealthy citizens to the enthusiasm of a generous rivalry. The accomplishment of the project by the people now will be an incentive to those who come after us to continue to add to the attractions which Nature has already granted with so lavish a hand to Detroit.

It will not only be a fitting and perpetual celebration of an unusual epoch in the age of an American city, but in every sense of the word—in commerce, industry, education, patriotism, and in the delight to the senses which makes life worth the living—will give our city a new birth.

The name of every donor will be perpetuated on an enduring register, preferably by suitable bronze inscription, if reasonably practicable. All our people of this generation, including the family at home and the children in school, should contribute, and have their names enrolled upon the historic roster and identified with a monument of their own, which will exist as long as the works of man continue.

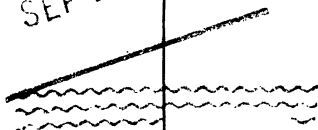




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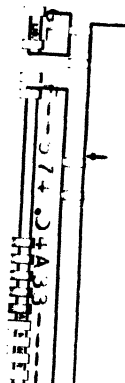
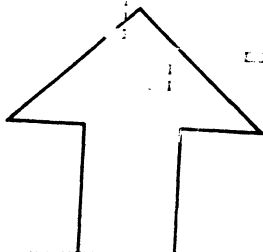


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